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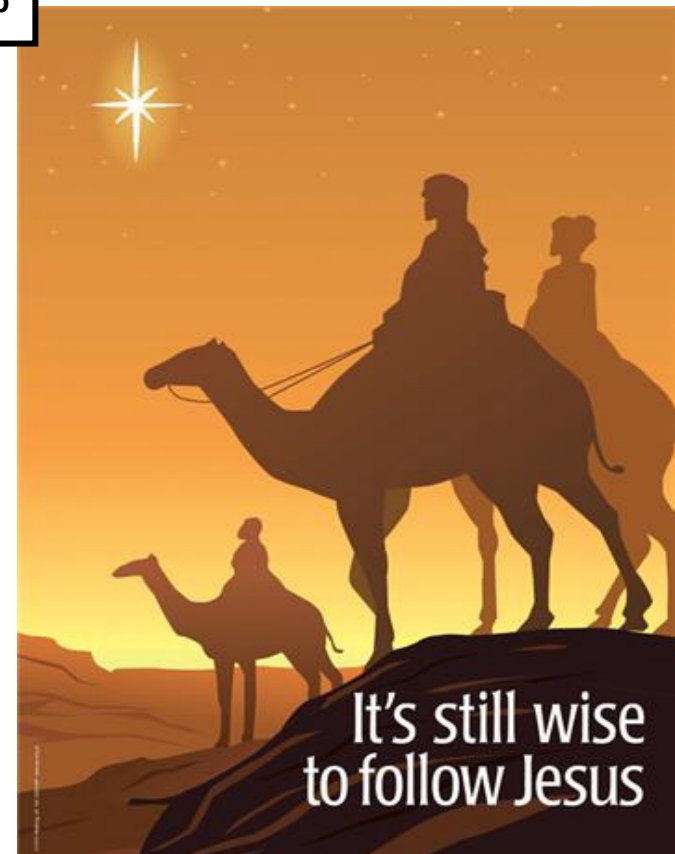
St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

35p



January 2018

St George's Church Stalybridge



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Clergy

Vicar	Revd Philip Brierley	0161 338 2368
Wardens	Mr Derek Redeyoff	0161 338 4779
	Mrs Janet Vidler	0161 303 7689
Deputy Wardens	Mrs Rose Hayward	0161 303 1731
	Mrs Gillian Cotton	0161 303 2787
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs Lynn Moon	0161 338 5773
Treasurer	Mr Michael Davies	0161 338 5112
Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Hurst	0161 330 0518
Room Hire	Mrs Janet Vidler	0161 303 7689

email: stgwarden@hotmail.co.uk

Worship Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (4 th Sunday only)
10.30 a.m.	Sung Communion and Junior Church (4 th Sunday – Family Service)
18.00 p.m.	Occasional Special Services as announced

Tuesday

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
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To receive Communion at home when you are sick or housebound, or to have the name of a departed friend or relation entered in the Book of Remembrance, please contact Philip or one of the Wardens.

For Baptisms, Marriages or Funerals please phone Philip (Vicar) on 0161 338 2368. Baptisms are usually conducted at 12.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

From Our Book of Remembrance

1 Jan	Ezekiel Lomas	1941	18 Jan	George William Catlow	2000
2 Jan	Edward Cooper	1980		Marian Hulme	2002
	Ernest Bramall	1982		Reginald Hewitt	2008
	Marjorie Day	1982	19 Jan	Mary Eastwood	1989
	David Cotton	2007	20 Jan	Raymond Jack Clarke	1983
3 Jan	Ivy Marshall	2006		Katherine Devlin	1988
4 Jan	William Parkinson	1943		Jean Ollerenshaw	2012
	Phyllis Peck	1981	21 Jan	Heather Alwyn Clarke	2012
	Barry Aldred	1999	22 Jan	Thomas Howard	1964
	Nellie Mellor	1977		Harry Walton	1967
5 Jan	Joseph Hibbert	1957		Eliza Emma Sidebottom	1988
	Hugh Shepley	1987	23 Jan	Jesslyn Tonge	1991
	Gertrude Sullivan	1998		Neil Hadfield	2011
6 Jan	Harry Walton	1988	24 Jan	Henry Howard	1981
	John Barratt	1996		Rhoda Hancock	1989
8 Jan	George Leonard Eakins	1981		Harold Spencer	1962
	James Norman Kelday	2000	25 Jan	Agnes Smith	1975
	Fred Harris	1979		Carol Hyde	2010
9 Jan	Sarah Clews	1994	26 Jan	Edith Emma Clinton	1987
	Susan Ann Maud Barnfield	1953		Nellie Wood	1987
10 Jan	Tom Sidebottom	1979		Eric James Chorlton	2001
11 Jan	Jesse Horsefield	1984		Margaret Slack	2007
	Drinda Jefferson	1990	27 Jan	Fred Kay	1968
	Evelyn Barlow	2003		Bridget Bower	1994
	James Watson	2014		Ronald Bower	2000
12 Jan	Ethel Battersby	1992		Geoffrey Phillip Brown	1995
13 Jan	Kathleen Thwaites	1992		Abraham Newton	1983
14 Jan	Robert Nicholson	1988		Veronica Quinn	1997
	Eva Helen Ollerenshaw	1989	29 Jan	Fred Holt	1939
	Kyle Martin Cropper			Eddie Holden	1990
	Ramsden	2004		Karen Jane Bradbury	2007
15 Jan	Norman Council	2014		Mildred Bradshaw	2014
	James Ireson	1990	30 Jan	Alice Saxon	1997
16 Jan	William Gudger	1963	31 Jan	Alice Ann Priestley	1955
	Minnie Schofield	2012		John Robert Stanley	1990
17 Jan	David Lees	2011		John Patrick Higgins	2006
18 Jan	William Frederick Ireson	1962			



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

To have the name of a loved one entered into this special book, and remembered in our intercessions for their anniversary please have a word with one of the wardens or Philip.

The cost for the special inscription is £10 per entry

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

3 December

David Martin Grundy, Woodside Street, Stalybridge
Bailey Francis Flynn, Springs Lane, Stalybridge
Brieanna Catherine Lendon, Springs Lane, Stalybridge

30 December

Martha Elizabeth McLeese, St John's Crescent, Whitchurch, Cardiff

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

12 December

Bette Doggett (aged 76 years) Newmarket Road, Ashton-under-Lyne

14 December

Mary Blacker (aged 89 years) Hurst Hall Care Home, Ashton-under-Lyne

28 December

Henry William Lowe (aged 76 years) Freizland Close, Carrbrook, Stalybridge



If anyone would like to take up the bread and wine at the offertory—to celebrate a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or just to take part, please have a word with one of the wardens for any Sunday this year.

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The future belongs to those who belong to God. This is hope.
W T Purkiser

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Dear All,

May I wish you all a very healthy, happy, peaceful and joyful year in 2018. We start the new calendar year looking forward to fresh opportunities of furthering the Gospel and bringing more people into the fellowship of St. George's and the wider church.



One such person who received the Gospel was John Newton, who was born in Wapping in 1725 and who wrote the popular hymn 'Amazing Grace' which has become one of the most well-liked hymns in the English Language. It was almost unknown in the UK, until the revival of folk music in the 1960s led to folk singers travelling both ways across the Atlantic, with the tune being brought in from America.

John Newton was the son of an English shipmaster, and had been press-ganged into the British Navy. He tried to escape, but was arrested in West Africa, and spent two years as the slave of a slave trader. When he gained his freedom, he sailed for another eight years in appalling conditions in ships carrying slaves from Africa to the Americas. Caught in a storm on the return voyage in 1748, he prayed to God to save him, and when the storm died down, he declared that he had been converted to Christianity. However, it wasn't until he became surveyor of the tides in Liverpool, some seven years later, that he was allowed to leave the slave trade.

Under the influence of the early Evangelicals, he was ordained and became curate of Olney in Buckinghamshire and influenced William Wilberforce to bring an end to slavery. Newton had been a 'wretch', an unbeliever and a slave trader. God, in his love, had saved Newton from a storm, and given him the quite undeserved privilege of becoming a Christian. Newton knew that he could never have gained eternal life by his own efforts: it was only by the grace of God that he could hope for heaven.

This month, we will be hosting the Stalybridge Churches Together Unity Service at St George's on Sunday 28 January at 6.00pm. The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2018 has been put together by the Churches in the Caribbean. They see the hand of God being active in the ending of enslavement for them, mirroring the release from captivity, which the Israelites suffered under the

Egyptians, and later the Babylonian Empire. Using the Song of Moses and Miriam (Exodus 15.1-21) – a song of triumph over oppression – the people of the Caribbean have a song of victory and freedom to sing, and it is a song which unites them. However, contemporary challenges threaten to enslave and threaten the dignity of the human person created in the image and likeness of God. Things such as poverty, violence, injustice, drug misuse etc. Many of these contemporary challenges, which manifest themselves in low esteem, gang culture, domestic violence and familial relationships, are a legacy of the slave trade and colonial past.

The right hand of God that brought the people out of slavery, gave continued hope and courage to the Israelites, as it continues to bring hope to the Christians of the Caribbean today. This theme has been incorporated into a hymn *The Right Hand of God* which was specially written in 1981 for the Caribbean Conference of Churches, and has now become an 'anthem' of the ecumenical movement in the region.

Words from the hymn, which we shall be singing at the service, tell us that "the right hand of God is planting in our land, planting seeds of freedom, hope and love".

Please do make an effort to join us and with members of the other Stalybridge Churches in witnessing to the ecumenical movement here in the United Kingdom, by supporting our Christian cousins abroad.

With best wishes

Philip

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Prayer at Epiphany

Lord of all, Creator of all,
Please shine your light into this dark world. Reveal yourself afresh we pray.
Bring new sight and understanding to eyes blinded by commercialism,
materialism, self-seeking and cynicism.

At the start of this New Year, Lord, soften hearts and give wisdom, so that
many will search and find you, just as the wise men searched and found you.

And for we who already know and love you, Lord, shine on us that we might
reflect your light and make a difference, day by day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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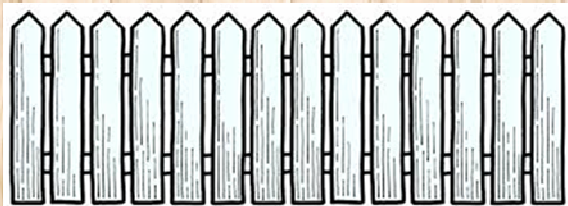
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One of the most popular New Year's Resolutions is the decision to do something about the TOO MUCH STUFF in your home. In this four part series a professional 'declutterer' helps us to get their homes back under control.

HOME FREED: the theology of decluttering

Part 1: Goal!

Forgetting what lies behind, I press on towards the goal. (Phil 3:13)

An important aspect of spirituality is to live in the present, without letting the past hold you captive, or the future make you anxious.

But in a house full of clutter, paying close attention to what is immediately in front of you may be the last thing you want to do! Heaps of clutter demand attention, because it occupies the space you need to work in, because it hides the important thing you are looking for, because it is difficult to keep clean, because you literally risk falling over it and injuring yourself if you don't pay attention.

The desire to clear clutter and live more simply can be strong, but people often don't know how to begin. Just throw it all away and start again? There may be treasures buried in the junk! (And anyway, recycling is more responsible than simple disposal.)

For the past decade, I have been helping people to declutter their homes and also to organize what they want to keep. No matter how the process ends, decluttering always begins the same way – we set a goal. What are you aiming to achieve? What will be the end result?

Your goal provides motivation, a sense of purpose when the mess is at its worst. With no goal, you might just move stuff from one place to another, without sorting through it. One room is cleared, but another is newly cluttered! So, it is better to go through things by type – shoes, tools, pans, books, and so on – rather than room by room. For example, do you really need 20 pairs of shoes, and eight screwdrivers? If your goal is to keep only things you use at least once every year, then the answer becomes easier.

Often clutter is inherited. Although you don't really want it, there is a sense of obligation, guilt, or fear of what might happen if you give anything away. So, part of your goal could include a change of attitude. Pray you will be able to see things for what they really are. Pray for wisdom as you choose what to keep. Pray that you can open your hands to let go of what you do not need. Pray for perseverance until your goal is reached. Remember that clutter is as much in the mind as in the home.

Then begin. Gather your possessions into 'like' groups, and look at each thing in turn. Make positive choices. How will this possession help you to reach your goal? Surround yourself with beautiful, useful things that make living in the moment a joy and a delight. Take the rest down to the nearest charity shop – where they may well go on to light up someone else's life.

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Need some odd jobs doing?
Can't get round to finishing the decorating?



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CHURCH FINANCES

December 2017 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
03 Dec 2017	Advent Sunday	£65.11	£536.29	601.40	
10 Dec 2017	Advent 2	£50.50	£371.00	£421.50	
17 Dec 2017	Advent 3	£52.03	£478.00	£530.03	
24 Dec 2017	Advent 4/ Christmas Eve	£119.85	£1,025.50	£1145.35	
31 Dec 2017	Christmas 1	£	£	£	
	Standing Orders etc		£864.00	£864.00	
	Monthly Total	£287.49	£3,274.79	£3,562.28	

* Assuming £10 per adult per week needed for running the church this means we need £3,466 per month

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200 CLUB

The 200 Club winners for November 2017 are:

1st Prize	£25	48	Jeanette Allsopp
2nd Prize	£15	38	Mike Styan
3rd Prize	£10	23	Paul Roberts

Subscriptions for 2018 are now due and should be paid to Rose.

The cost is £12 per year per number and there are still some spare numbers available and new members are always welcome. If you would like to join please see Rose Hayward or ring 303 1731.

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Smile-Lines for the New Year

Some modern tips for the Wise Men's journey

Suppose you are going abroad, to pay your respects to a newly born royal baby. But the country you visit is under foreign occupation, and you don't know where the baby is. What can you do to make sure you are successful?

When travelling abroad in foreign places, first think carefully about your transport – how many camels will you really need? How will you feed them on the way? And what about relying solely on the stars at night for navigation? Would a Satnav during the day help things along a bit?

When you arrive in the country, be sensitive to the political situation. It may be unwise to go straight to the authorities and ask them where their future king has just been born. This can make leaders uneasy, and can even get innocent people killed. Also, be aware of the country's attitude to different gods, especially if you have gone along intending to worship one in particular.

Don't worry if you are given only part of an address, say, only the name of the town where the baby may be. Go there, and trust that somehow you will feel 'led' to the right house.

Sadly, crime is common in many foreign cities, so if you are carrying expensive presents like gold or frankincense, it is best to keep them out of sight. A coat with large pockets, or even a loose cape, will work fine.

If any problems arise after you find the baby and pay your respects, don't hang about. Pay attention to that nightmare you had last night, and get out of the country before you are arrested. Be happy to take a different route home. After all, it is all under the same stars. Above all, be wise, and have a Happy New Year!

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That's telling

Young Charles finished his Christmas holiday and headed back to school. Only two days later his teacher was on the phone, telling his mother that he was misbehaving. "Wait a minute!" protested his mum. "I had Charles here for two weeks over the Christmas break, and I never once rang YOU when he misbehaved!"

This curious business of raising children

You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up

And finally apologies to those who were missing the punch line of one of the jokes last month—here it is again...

On the door of a Moscow hotel room: If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

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Readings and Psalms for January 2018

Tues 2nd 10.30 1 John 2.22-28; Psalm 98.1-4; John 1.19-28

Sun 7th Epiphany

10.30 Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.10-15; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

Tues 9th 10.30 1 Samuel 1.9-20; Cantic: 1 Samuel 2.1,4-8; Mark 1.21-28

Sun 14th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 1 Samuel 3.1-10; Psalm 139.1-5,12-18; Revelation 5.1-10; John 1.43-end

Tues 16th 10.30 1 Samuel 16.1-13; Psalm 89.19-27; Mark 2.23-end

Sun 21st 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 Genesis 14.17-20; Psalm 128; Revelation 19.6-10; John 2.1-11

Tues 23rd 10.30 2 Samuel 6.12-15;17-19; Psalm 24.7-end;Mark 3.31-end

Sun 28th Presentation of Christ in the Temple - *Candlemas*

8.30 Malachi 3.1-5; Luke 2.22-40

10.30 Malachi 3.1-5; Luke 2.22-40
Worship For All

Tues 30th 10.30 2 Samuel 18.9-10,14,24-25,30-19.3; Psalm 86.1-6; Mark 5.21-end

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December Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.



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NEW GROUP MONDAY

7.00pm with Terri
St George's Church
Church Walk
Stalybridge

TUESDAY

5pm & 7pm
with **Cassandra**
St Matthews, Dean Street,
Stalybridge SK15 2JD

THURSDAY

5.30pm & 7.30pm
with **Mandy**
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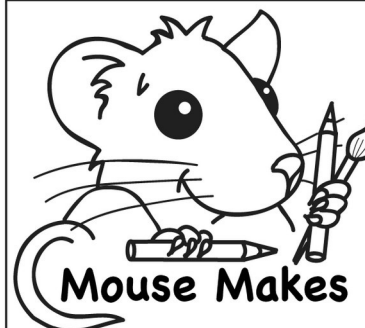
SATURDAY

7.30am, 9.30am & 11.30am
with **Maria**
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Children's Page



Words to live by
from Proverbs 3

*"My child, never forget
the things I have
taught you.*

*Store my commands
in your heart". vs1*



Don't ever forget kindness and truth
...then you will be respected and
will please both God and people.
from Proverbs 3:3-4 NCV

**Trust in God from the bottom
of your heart; don't try to figure out
everything on your own.**

from Proverbs 3:5 MSG

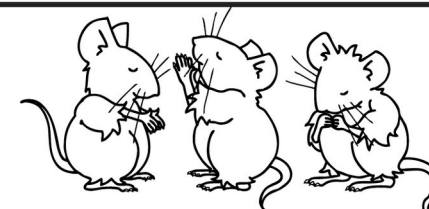


Don't assume you
know it all.



Run to God!

from Proverbs 3:7 MSG



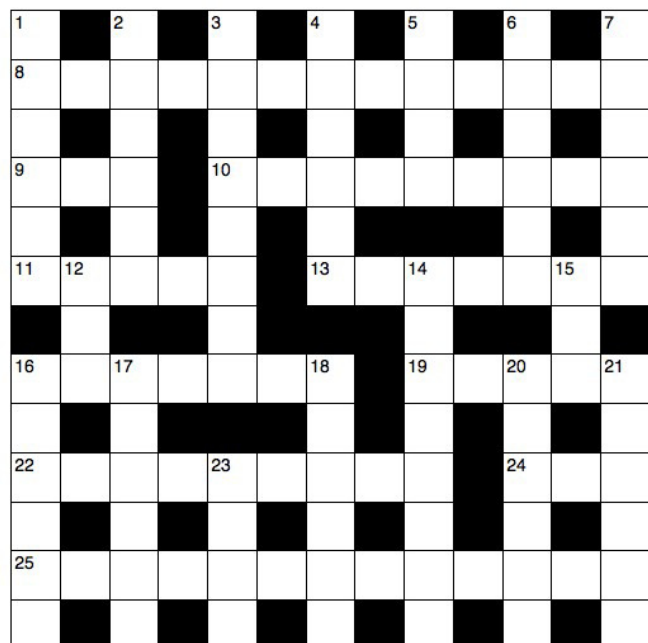
Seek God's will in all you do and He will
show you which path to take.
from Proverbs 3:6 NLT

**Honour God with everything you own;
give Him the first and the best.**
from Proverbs 3:9 MSG



Cut out and colour these
Scripture verse cards
to remind you this new year
of God's wise ways to live.

January Crossword



Across

8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3),
 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3), 10 The Ten Commandments (9), 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5), 13 Des cons (anag.) (7), 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7), 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5),
 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9), 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3),
 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

Down

1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6), 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6), 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8), 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6), 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1), 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5), 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6), 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1), 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — , the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8), 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3), 16 Vat car (anag.) (6), 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6), 18 'The parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2), 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6), 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6), 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

Some dates for your diary - January 2018

Tues	2nd	10.30a.m. Holy Communion
Sun	7th	Epiphany 10.30a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church 12.30p.m. Holy Baptism
Tues	9th	10.30a.m. Holy Communion
Thurs	11th	9.00a.m. Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs) 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	14th	Second Sunday of Epiphany 10.30a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Tues	16th	10.30a.m. Holy Communion
Wed	17th	7.30p.m. Safeguarding Meeting at St John, Hurst
Thurs	18th	9.00a.m. Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs) 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sat	20th	2.00p.m. to 5.00p.m. Yorkshire Afternoon Tea Party for the over 65s
Sun	21st	Third Sunday of Epiphany Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th - 25th 10.30a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Tues	23rd	10.30a.m. Holy Communion 7.45p.m. Parochial Church Council
Thurs	25th	9.00a.m. Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs) 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sat	27th	2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. Fair Trade Afternoon Tea 8.00p.m. Quiz Night in the Lounge
Sun	28th	Presentation of Christ in The Temple (Candlemas) 8.30a.m. Holy Communion 10.30a.m. Worship For All 6.00p.m. Stalybridge Churches Together Unity Service
Tues	30th	10.30a.m. Holy Communion 2.00p.m. to 3.00p.m. Councillor Adrian Pearce - Surgery 7.45p.m. Social and Fund Raising Committee

For more information please go to our website www.stg.org.uk



Saint of the Month 20 January Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349

Richard Rolle was born at Thornton-le-Dale in the North Riding of Yorkshire in 1305. The age in which he lived was one of change and worry with seemingly unfathomable reasons for the success or failure of many communities and businesses.

Richard started a degree at Oxford, but never completed it, choosing instead to live the solitary life, settling close to the Cistercian nuns at Hampole, his base for the rest of his life. It was here that he wrote his most famous works: *The Mending of Life*, probably in the 1320s, and *The Fire of Love*, written about 1343.

Three themes dominated Richard's spirituality. He challenged any equation of Christianity with power and wealth. He stressed the journey of the self rather than that of the community, and he focused upon the suffering Christ. These themes turned upside down the prevailing attitude of the day towards the Christian life.

Richard sought to encourage individuals to think of their personal journey towards God, rather than to see faith only as a communal activity. He stressed personal experience, and regarded his spiritual experience as a validation of his authority. Richard saw no reason why an individual should not reach the highest level of spiritual life that can be attained on earth. He tried to communicate the incommunicable experience of God within himself to others.

He produced some of the most passionate writings about prayer, but was so enwrapped in his own vision of God and quest for perfection that he was removed from those around him. As a consequence he struggled to apply the experience of God that he sought so vividly to his relationships with others, or to those within the Church whom he saw as defective or in error. His approach seems to be one so focused on heaven that earth is intolerable. However, his contribution both to mystic writings and to theology is undeniable, and his thirst for the tangible experience of the Holy Spirit cannot be doubted.

O Holy Spirit, who breathes where you will, come into me and snatch me up to yourself. Fortify the nature you have created, with gifts so flowing with honey that, from intense joy in your sweetness, it may despise and reject all which is in this world, that it may accept (you giving them), spiritual gifts, and through melodious jubilation, it may entirely melt in holy love, reaching out for uncircumscribed Light.

Concerning the Love of God, Ch. 11

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1918 was the final year of the Great War. Canon David Winter looks back on highlights of those critical 12 months ...

Diary of a Momentous Year: January 1918: STALEMATE

In January 1918, my mother was working as a telephonist in London. My father, whom she had yet to meet, was somewhere on the Western Front in France serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a stretcher-bearer. Decades later they spoke of the helpless mood of people, as the War simply became a permanent feature of life.



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

Whatever had happened to 'over by Christmas'? The front line stayed more or less where it had been for years. Yet week by week the official Gazette published page upon page of British casualties. People at home were still reeling from the appalling slaughter of the battle of Passchendaele. No one seemed to know what to do about it. Even the most gung-ho generals had stopped thinking that the next great offensive would defeat the German army and bring the war to an end. Food was becoming scarce, but hope was even scarcer – and that was as true for the enemy as for the Allies.

However, there were the Americans. They had arrived late in the War (in April 1917), just a few months before Russia retired from it, battered and bruised and without huge swathes of its former territory. No one was quite sure what the Americans would do, but in the first month of 1918 – the 8th of January, to be precise – Allied questions were dramatically answered. In a speech to Congress, President Woodrow Wilson spelt out Fourteen Principles which America considered fundamental to a peaceful solution of the seemingly endless war in Europe.

The 'principles' included several based on those of the American Constitution – democracy, freedom from oppression and self-determination. But he also raised issues of free trade between nations, freedom of navigation and a requirement for an all-round and significant disarmament – 'no more than is necessary for defence'. He touched, too, on a contentious issue that is often overlooked in the background of this war – competitive colonialism. Britain, Germany and France all held large parts of Africa and defended their 'right' to do so vigorously.

Woodrow Wyatt's Fourteen Principles certainly lifted many hearts in Britain. At least someone in power was talking about peace-making rather than victory. Governments were cautious, but an influential voice had crossed the Atlantic. Was it possible that in these Principles there was a key that might eventually unlock the Gate of Peace?

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